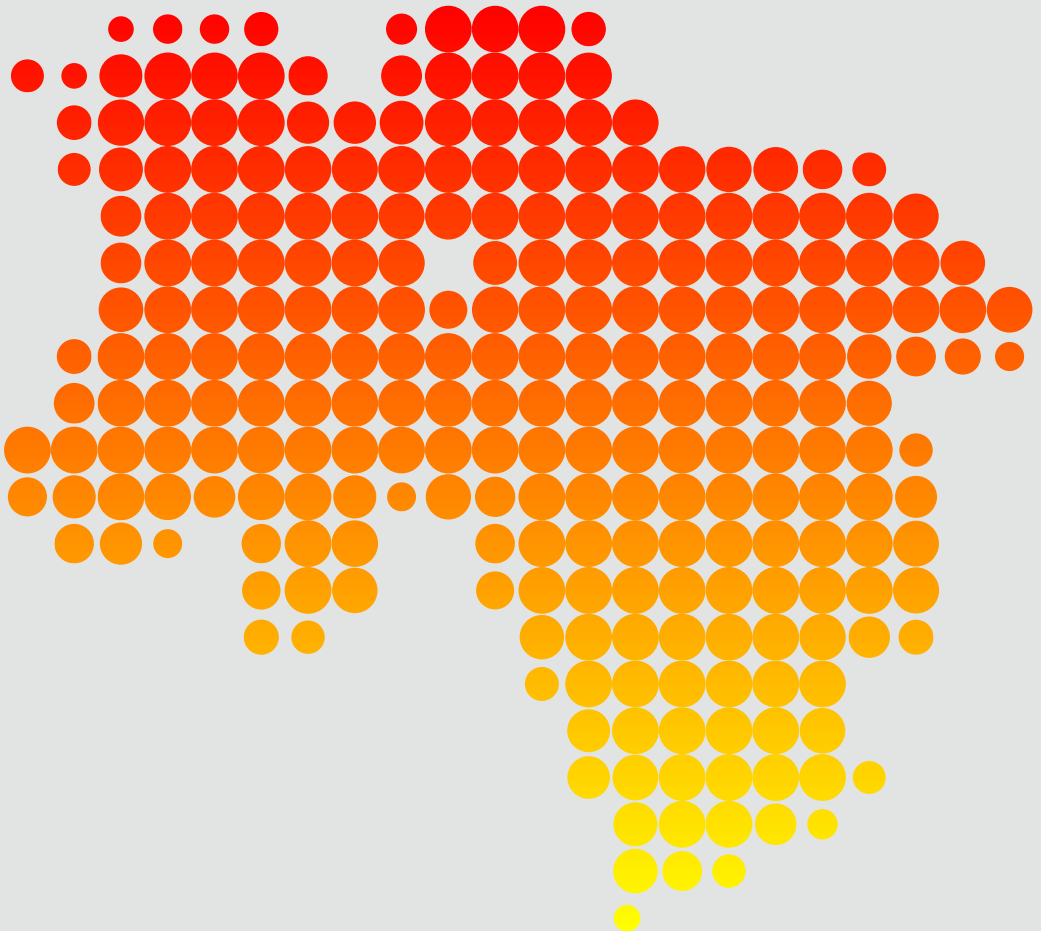


Landesstützpunkt

Hospizarbeit und
Palliativversorgung
Niedersachsen e.V.



Hospice and Palliative Care Services in Lower Saxony



Information about hospice work and palliative care

Some people have a very serious illness that cannot be cured.

These people can receive special help and care:

this is palliative care.

Palliative care is no longer aimed at curing people or prolonging their lives. It should help people to live with their illness as well as possible.

In palliative care, staff members ensure that the sick person is physically well.

Many other people also receive help from hospice staff members. They make sure that the dying person and their family, friends and other familiar people are emotionally well.

They should not feel alone. Most hospice staff work on a voluntary basis and do not receive any money for their work.

Hospice work and palliative care services are offered for people who want to continue living at home.

For people who are no longer able to live at home, there are inpatient facilities in hospitals, retirement homes and hospices.

Treatment is about what people want and need. To ensure that people receive appropriate help, attention is paid to:

- the body, for example pain relief and signs of illness
- the soul, for example worries and fears
- family, friends and society
- faith and religion

Everyone in Germany has the right to help through hospice work and palliative care. It doesn't matter how much money you have.

Sometimes children and adolescents are already seriously ill. They can also be supported by people working in hospice and palliative care.

You can find more information about what is offered for children and young people at www.hospiz-palliativ-nds.de

What inpatient services are available?

Palliative care wards in hospitals

A palliative care ward is a special department in a hospital. People are treated here who are so seriously ill that they will die soon.

Patients should be treated as if they will be able to leave the hospital again soon. They can then receive further help at home or in a care home.

But unfortunately this is often no longer possible. People stay on the palliative care ward until they die.

Who decides whether you are admitted to a palliative care ward?

A doctor in the hospital or the family doctor.

Inpatient hospice

People who are about to die are often no longer able to live at home alone. They are then able to live in an inpatient hospice. They receive help here from doctors and carers.

All staff members at the hospice are there for the dying person and also for their family, friends and other familiar people.

They help with questions and talk to them, for example about their fears or worries.

In a hospice, dying people should feel comfortable despite their illness. And they should be able to live well here until they die. That's why they decide for themselves what they need and what they want to do during the day.

When can someone be admitted to a hospice?

When treatment in a hospital can no longer help the person. And if the person is so ill that help at home is no longer enough.

How big is a hospice?

There are 8-16 places in a hospice.

Who decides whether a person is admitted to a hospice?

A doctor in the hospital or the family doctor.

What outpatient services are available at home?

General outpatient palliative care (AAPV)

People who are seriously ill and dying often receive AAPV. Their pain and symptoms are treated. The illnesses are serious, but care can often still be provided by the family doctor. Sometimes doctors from different specialities provide support. And people can get help from a care service.

They can also get help from other professionals if they want it.

For example:

- Pastoral counsellors
- Social workers
- Psychologists
- Therapists
- Employees of outpatient hospice services

APV is also available for people living in nursing homes.

Specialised outpatient palliative care (SAPV)

Sometimes dying people have several and severe signs of illness. Nevertheless, they should be able to stay at home for as long as possible. The dying person, their family and friends receive help at home from SAPV.

There are SAPV teams for this. They can supplement treatment by GPs, care services or AAPV. However, they can also take over the treatment completely. You can always call the SAPV teams if you need help.

Who decides whether you receive AAPV or SAPV?

A doctor in the hospital or the family doctor.

Hospice services and voluntary help

Hospice services accompany dying people and their families and friends. They spend time with them and talk to them about their fears, their worries, their lives and death.

People from the hospice services work on a voluntary basis and do not receive any money for their work. They often receive support from a person employed by the hospice service. This person can also advise the dying person on medical issues. The outpatient hospice service is free of charge.

The volunteers visit the homes of unwell people. But they also come to inpatient hospices and many nursing homes and hospitals.

Outpatient hospice services also offer their help to people who are mourning the death of a loved one.

Hospice services are an important part of our society: they help to improve the treatment of seriously ill and dying people.

You can find more information about hospice work and palliative care for adults, children and young people on our website:

www.hospiz-palliativ-nds.de

an initiative by:

Landesstützpunkt

Hospizarbeit und
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